

THE RECOVERY ACT: INDIANA CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories, Weatherization funds are used to accomplish the mission of WAP, *"To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety."*

Over 900 local agencies apply energy-efficiency measures to low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The resulting energy savings help decrease energy costs for the families and our country's dependence on foreign oil.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, WAP received \$5 billion of funding to expand the current Program and achieve the purposes set forth in the Act. As a result, here is how Weatherization *Works* for Indiana and America!

What does the Recovery Act mean to Indiana?

Indiana is slated to receive over \$4 billion in Recovery Act funds¹ to invest in education, transportation, housing, public safety, energy and environment, workforce development and other projects and will save or create jobs while also helping to protect essential state services that Hoosiers rely upon every day.

The **Indiana Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** benefits directly from the Recovery Act. Since October 2009, Indiana has:

- created over 123 jobs.¹
- retained 90 jobs.¹
- weatherized over 1,430 homes.¹
- trained 266 new auditors.¹
- trained 1,451 contractor staff, which are a combination of new crew members and independent contractors.¹

How is the Recovery Act Stimulating Indiana's Economy?

Prior to the Recovery Act funding, **Tranum Insulation**, had four part-time staff working approximately 20-30 hours a week on weatherization projects to provide insulation and air sealing for two traditional recipient agencies in central Indiana. Since the Recovery Act, Tranum Insulation is now contracted with several weatherization sub-grantees and has six staff members including the owner, Robert Tranum, working 50-60 hours a week on weatherization projects. With the increased demand for workers, Tranum recently hired a furnace technician and assistant to take on HVAC work, three additional crew members for

INDIANA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	State Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act Funding ²	\$131.85 million	19,736**
Program Year 2009	\$12.34 million	4,726*
Program Year 2008	\$6.52 million	1,816
Program Year 2007	\$5.85 million	1,613

WEATHERIZATION FACTS

Average annual energy cost savings per household ³	\$350
Average space heating savings	32%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested ³	\$1.67

¹ Data provided by Indiana Program Update, February 2010 and <http://www.in.gov/gov/Invest.htm>.

² The Recovery Act Funding covers three years, from April 2009 through March 2012.

³ ORNL/CON-493, ORNL/CON-484, EIA Annual Energy Outlook for 2009, EIA Short Term Energy Outlook (Feb. 2008).

** Projected Number of Homes Weatherized. This projection is based on an increased allowable expenditure per home than in previous years.

* Projected Number of Homes Weatherized.



A weatherization crew member in Indiana reviews the digital manometer readings during a blower door test on a client's home.

Weatherization Works

Weatherization provides long term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion systems or mold and moisture problems are addressed during the weatherization process when necessary. Addressing both energy and non-energy issues not only improves the efficiency of the home, but the overall quality of life for the residents. For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization currently returns \$2.73 to the household and society:

- \$1.67 in reduced energy bills
- \$1.06 in non-energy benefits
 - increased local employment
 - improved housing quality
 - better health and safety

Weatherization also reduces national energy consumption and curbs the demand for imported oil. Annually, Weatherization decreases the national consumption by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil.



Weatherization truly works for Indiana and America!

For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:

www.in.gov/ihcda/2523.htm
www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization
www.waptac.org

EERE Information Center
 1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter

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his insulation and air sealing business, and has hired four more employees who were previously receiving unemployment.

Tranum expects his gross revenues to increase by 75-100% as a result of all the additional work, but his commitment to the weatherization program goes beyond simply expanding his business. Tranum states, *"We want to do this right, if we can help out these families, that's what it's all about."*

What's Next for Indiana

Historically, Indiana has relied solely on the efforts of the training center located within the **Indiana Community Action Association (INCAA)** to provide all contractors and auditors the necessary training related to the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). With the additional 2,000+ contractors needed to accommodate the Recovery Act workload of weatherizing 20,000 more households by 2012, Indiana made the decision to expand its resources by looking for other training entities to partner with to teach contractors about WAP practices and key federal and state guidelines.

Ivy Tech Community College and **AC/C Tech** were selected as the new training partners to offer courses throughout Indiana to contractors interested in working with the state's program. Both partners were equipped with hands-on training labs and provided intensive instruction to provide an informative, practical training to the contractors. The courses offered through Ivy Tech and AC/C Tech have successfully and expeditiously trained over 1,700 contractors and auditors who are now working in the field.

Getting More for Less

In an effort to implement cost savings measures, Indiana has launched a centralized purchasing system for two items most commonly purchased through the weatherization program: Fiberglass Insulation and Natural Gas Furnaces. The program will yield significant cost savings if the two items are purchased through a centralized provider at a volume discounted rates. To date, Indiana has saved over \$120,000 and has the potential to save over \$1,000,000 when the Recovery Act is complete. The centralized purchasing system is currently under consideration to be used for the Indiana's regular DOE and LIHEAP weatherization funding.